

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-function air treatment apparatus, comprising:
a generally enclosed housing in which an interior and a plurality of
through openings are defined, at least one of the through openings being an air inlet
5 through which air enters the housing and at least one of the through openings being an
air outlet through which air exits the housing;
a negative ion generator positioned within the housing, the negative ion
generator having an enclosed charged surface and an opposite exposed surface on which
negative ions are generated and from which the negative ions are transferred to the air
10 via a negative electrostatic field; and
a photo-ionizing assembly positioned within the housing, the photo-
ionizing assembly having a light source that produces light at a desired wavelength to
react with airborne matter,
wherein negative ions generated by the negative ion generator interact
15 with and neutralize positively charged particles in the air within the housing and air
outside of the housing, and the light from the photo-ionizing assembly causes oxidation
of at least some of the airborne matter in adjacent air within the housing.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the photo-ionizing assembly
20 produces ozone when light from the light source strikes oxygen in the air.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the photo-ionizing assembly
includes a target catalyst, and wherein some of the light produced by the light source
that strikes the target catalyst produces at least one of peroxide radicals and super-oxide
25 ions.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a power supply
connected to at least the negative ion generator, the power supply configured to be self-

limiting such that power is supplied at a decreasing voltage as the electrostatic field decreases from a positive value to zero.

5. An air treatment apparatus, comprising:
- 5 a base;
- a generally frustoconical housing extending upwardly from the base that terminates in a slanting top surface, the housing having an inner surface that defines an interior and a cross section that decreases in size from a lower end adjacent the base to an upper end adjacent the top surface, the housing also having a side surface with
- 10 louvered openings including an upper air inlet portion that serves as an air inlet and an adjacent lower air outlet portion that serves as an air outlet, the housing also having additional air outlets defined in the lower end of the housing adjacent the base and in the top surface of the housing;
- a negative ion generator positioned within the interior of the housing and
- 15 coupled to the base, the negative ion generator being a hollow cylinder with dielectric outer side and top surfaces and a conductive inner surface;
- a fan positioned within the interior above the negative ion generator, the fan being adjacent the air inlet portion of the side surface of the housing;
- a photo-ionizing assembly disposed within the interior and generally
- 20 above the fan and the negative ion generator, the photo-ionizing assembly including a fluorescent bulb and a tray for supporting the bulb, the tray being slidably removable through a tray opening defined in the side surface of the housing above the air inlet opening; and
- an electrical circuit that provides power to the negative ion generator, fan
- 25 and photo-ionizer, the circuit including a power switch, a power supply and a ballast, the power supply being connected to the power switch, the fan, the negative ion generator and the ballast, and the ballast also being connected to the photo-ionizer.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the conductive inner surface of the hollow cylinder is formed as a coating.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the bulb produces ultraviolet light at a predetermined wavelength such that light from the bulb striking oxygen in the air causes ozone to form.

8. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the tray is coated with a target substance, and the light impinging on the target produces radicals and ions that react with and reduce volatile organic compounds.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the target substance comprises at least 10% TiO_2 by weight.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the target substance comprises 10-30% TiO_2 , 0-30% Ag and 0-30% Cu, by weight.

11. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the dielectric outer surface of the negative ion generator is substantially non-conducting, and wherein only the inner surface of the negative ion generator is charged.

12. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the top surface of the housing includes a translucent portion, and wherein the bulb is positioned within the interior adjacent the top surface such that light from the bulb illuminates the translucent portion when the bulb is lit.

13. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a component mount having a central plate and three spaced-apart downwardly extending legs that are coupled to the base at respective positions radially outward of the negative ion

generator, the component mount being positioned above and generally in alignment with the negative ion generator with the central plate being adjacent the top surface of the negative ion generator, the central plate having a support member to which the fan and photo-ionizing assembly are coupled.

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14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the power supply and ballast are coupled to the top plate.

10 15. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the bulb has two opposing ends and a substantially cylindrical peripheral surface between the two ends, and the tray has an inner surface with openings that receive and support the ends of the bulb such that a portion of the peripheral surface between the ends is spaced from the tray.

15 16. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the bulb has a substantially cylindrical lighting surface and the tray is shaped such that the tray receives a portion of light rays emitted radially from the lighting surface.

20 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the tray is positioned relative to the bulb such that the inner surface of the tray is radially opposite more than half of the lighting surface.

25 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the tray is positioned relative to the bulb such that the inner surface of the tray is radially opposite the lighting surface over substantially an entire length of the lighting surface and more than 180° of a circumference of the lighting surface.

19. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the photo-ionizing assembly includes a coil that surrounds a portion of the bulb, and the coil is coated with a target

substance such that light impinging on the target produces radicals and ions that react with and reduce volatile organic compounds.

20. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the power supply is configured
5 to be self-regulating such that the power supplied to the negative ion generator decreases as the electrostatic field decreases from a positive value to zero.

21. A multi-approach air treatment apparatus, comprising;
a photo-ionizing assembly that emits a predetermined wavelength
10 of ultraviolet light, wherein a first portion of the emitted light produces ozone upon impingement with adjacent air and a second portion of emitted light impinges upon a target that produces radicals and ions that bond with and reduce a portion of volatile organic compounds within the air; and
a negative ion generator that produces negative ions by an
15 electrical charge applied to an enclosed conductive inner surface, the negative ion generator having a substantially non-conductive outer surface on which the negative ions are formed and from which the negative ions are transferred to air,
wherein the photo-ionizing assembly and the negative ion
generator are powered by a common power supply operating at a substantially constant
20 voltage.

22. A method for treating air, the method comprising:
producing negative ions on a substantially non-conductive exterior
dielectric surface of a negative ion generator by applying a charge to an enclosed inner
25 conductive surface of the negative ion generator;
passing air to be treated along the exterior dielectric surface so that
negative ions encounter the passing air; and

exposing air to be treated to a photo-ionizing light source to photo-ionize at least a portion of the passing air such that ozone is produced to oxidize contaminants in the air.

- 5 23. The method of claim 22, wherein photo-ionizing includes emitting from the light source ultraviolet light that produces ozone upon impingement with air and allowing a portion of the light produced to impinge upon a predetermined target that produces radicals and ions that bond with and reduce volatile organic compounds in the air.